

Washington, DC - Congressman Jeff Fortenberry has cosponsored legislation to provide enhanced care for our nation's women veterans. This legislation, the Women Veterans Health Care Improvement Act, takes an important step forward in addressing the unique challenges women veterans encounter. This legislation directs the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to assess all health care services offered to women veterans, requiring the VA to ensure a proactive, holistic approach to treatment, including for those veterans suffering from sexual trauma and post traumatic stress disorder.

"I am deeply appreciative of the service and self-sacrifice of our nation's women veterans and believe that we must faithfully care for all those who have borne the burden of defending our liberties," said Fortenberry. "This new generation of women service members demonstrates every measure of heroism under fire, in close proximity to combat operations in conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, and in operations around the world. I believe it is critical to properly serve these brave women who have served our country, and am proud to cosponsor the Women Veterans Health Care Improvement Act."

According to recent statistics from the U.S. Department of Defense, 216,553 women have been deployed in Afghanistan and Iraq since the start of the wars in 2001 and 2003 (11.3 percent of deployed U.S. military personnel). There are 199,000 women on active duty in the U.S. military, and 150,588 women are reservists or in the National Guard.

###